



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,023	07/21/2003	Alain Romier	28944/40075	5077
29471	7590	03/29/2005	EXAMINER	
MCCRACKEN & FRANK LLP			SOOHOO, TONY GLEN	
200 W. ADAMS STREET			ART UNIT	
SUITE 2150			PAPER NUMBER	
CHICAGO, IL 60606			1723	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,023

Applicant(s)

ROMIER ET AL.

Examiner

Tony G. Soohoo

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-15-2003.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Note: the term “chippings” is read broadly whereby no particular scope has been positively defined by this relative term.

4. Claims 1-6, 8, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2689051, cited on PTO 1449.

See page 2, lines 18 through page 3 line 11, and page 5 lines 1-15.

5. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 430979, cited on PTO 1449.

See page 1, lines 54-62, page 2, lines 2-5 and lines 58-67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1723

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7, 9-11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2689051, cited on PTO 1449.

The French reference, FR '051 discloses all of the recited subject matter as defined within the scope of the claims with the exception of the method step of the particular aggregate water content (claim 7), the amount of water in the mixture to effect water vaporization (claim 9), amount water added and remaining in the mixture after adding the bitumen coating (claim 10), and the temperature of ranges of the heated aggregate and its effect on the final temperature of the mixture (claim 11).

Absent any unexpected result, it is old and well known in the art of making bituminous mixtures of aggregate for paving or cement applications that the amount of water in each of the component additive ingredients, or the water added in the mixture is an effective variable in the temperature gradient of the process thereby effecting the efficiently and profile of a desired heat transfer profile to the mixture during the mixing and adding of each respective component material in the mixture. Accordingly, absent any unexpected result, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the steps show by the reference above to optimize the temperature profile by controlling the amount of water in the aggregate, water in the mixture, or the liquid water added to the mixture in order to produce a more effective transfer of and control of heat to mixture for a more stable mixture.

Art Unit: 1723

With regards the temperature of the aggregate, it is also old and well known in the art of bituminous mixtures of aggregate for paving or cement applications to monitor and control the temperature of the material components as it is added to the mixture whereby it will effect the total temperature profile of the mixture as the component material is added to the mixture itself. Accordingly, absent any unexpected result, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the steps shown by the reference above to optimize the temperature of the profile of the mixture by controlling the temperature of the aggregate so as to create a more consistent mixture.

8. Claims 2, 4-5, and 7-11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 430979, cited on PTO 1449.

The Great Britain reference, GB '979 discloses all of the recited subject matter as defined within the scope of the claims with the exception of the method step; of the 2nd portion being sand and fines of a particular size (claims 4-5), of the particular aggregate water content (claim 7), the amount of water in the mixture to effect water vaporization (claim 9), amount water added and remaining in the mixture after adding the bituminous coating (claim 10), and the temperature of ranges of the heated aggregate and its effect on the final temperature of the mixture (claims 2, 8, 11).

With regards to the 2nd portion being sand and fines, it is old and well known in the art to use various size fillers of sand and fines which are graded to provide a better cooperation with the size of the aggregate so as to produce a more stable paving

Art Unit: 1723

mixture, accordingly absent any unexpected result, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the mixture of the aggregate of the reference above by choosing the relative sizes of the mixture filler aggregate comprising with sand and fines of a size and with a sand size of greater than 2mm in order to optimize the cooperation of the filler material with the aggregate to produce a more stable material for use.

Absent any unexpected result, it is old and well known in the art of making bituminous mixtures of aggregate for paving or cement applications that the amount of water in each of the component additive ingredients, or the water added in the mixture is an effective variable in the temperature gradient of the process thereby effecting the efficiently and profile of a desired heat transfer profile to the mixture during the mixing and adding of each respective component material in the mixture. Accordingly, absent any unexpected result, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the steps show by the reference above to optimize the temperature profile by controlling the amount of water in the aggregate, water in the mixture, or the liquid water added to the mixture in order to produce a more effective transfer of and control of heat to mixture for a more stable mixture.

With regards the temperature of the aggregate, it is also old an well known in the art of bituminous mixtures of aggregate for paving or cement applications to monitor and control the temperature of the material components as it is added to the mixture whereby it will effect the total temperature profile of the mixture as the component material is added to the mixture itself. Accordingly, absent any unexpected result, it is

Art Unit: 1723

deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the steps shown by the reference above to optimize the temperature of the profile of the mixture by controlling the temperature of the aggregate so as to create a more consistent mixture.

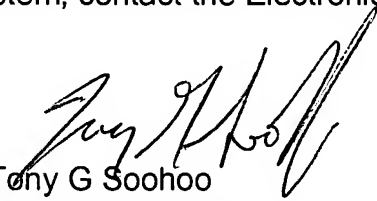
Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following shows examples of heated aggregate, the use of sand and fillers, and the addition of water, and bitumen in producing cement or paving materials: Bracegirdle Re 32, 206, Muntzer et al 3986889, Anderson 4089508, Wittenberg 1791109, Lehman et al 3482824, Laycock 3554498, Farnham et al 3741532, Nath et al 5352275, Johnson 1656001, Morton et al 4089509, Badgett 3300193, Brock et al 4218145, Brock 4222498, Ohlson 4579458, and 4468125, Kaga 4795263, Ito et al 5452213, Kilheffer et al 5590976, Stansbury 1724687, Hines et al 6042258.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony G. Soohoo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Tues. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tony G Soohoo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723
